

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00432 011410Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 USIA-06 TRSE-00
ERDA-05 COME-00 MC-02 /064 W
-----011419Z 022644 /43

R 011320Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0812
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALEXANDRIA 0432

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EWWT, EG
SUBJECT: ALEXANDRIA SHIPYARD

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0420 (NOTAL), 76 ALEXANDRIA A-013 (NOTAL)

1. CONSUL GENERAL AND DPO, AT INVITATION DIRECTOR GENERAL AND
MANAGING DIRECTOR, VISITED ALEXANDRIA SHIPYARD ON 31 MAY.
PRE-INSPECTION BRIEFING BY RETIRED ARMY GENERAL (AND DOCTOR OF
SCIENCE) HASSAN EL SAYED, NEWLY-APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL, WAS
HEAVY ON PLEA FOR US NAVY AND US MERCHANT MARINE USE OF THE YARD.

2. TO NON-TECHNICAL OBSERVERS, YARD DOES SEEM WELL-EQUIPPED,
WELL-STAFFED (BARRING UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES REFTTEL) AND CAPABLE
OF BUILDING AND OVERHAULING VESSELS UP TO ABOUT 50,000 TONS.
(SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR WORKERS NON-EXISTENT). LIKE BRIEFING (PARA
ONE), EMPHASIS WAS ON CHANGE DESIRED TO PHASE OUT SOVIET INFLUENCE
OF TWENTY YEARS AND PHASE IN WESTERN TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT.

3. TWO 8,000 TON GENERAL CARGO VESSELS ON WAYS WILL BE LAST TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ALEXAN 00432 011410Z

SOVIET DESIGN, ACCORDING TO SAYED. HE SAID BOTH, CONTRACTED FOR
BY RUSSIANS, ARE DESTINED FOR SALE TO EGYPT'S NATIONAL MERCHANT
FLEET. HE HAS ORDERED OUT SOVIET ADVISERS ON THIS PROJECT AND
WILL COMPLETE ON HIS OWN. HE SEES NO NEED FOR "ADVISERS" AND NO
NEED FOR SOVIET MIDDLEMEN ON PROVIDING GOE-BUILT SHIPS TO GOE-
CONTROLLED OCEAN TRANSPORT BODY.

4. TALKS ARE IN PROGRESS FOR DESIGNS AND TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE FROM "IHI" FIRM OF JAPAN AND "B&W" OF DENMARK. SAYED NOTED THAT ANY OUTSIDE CLIENT COULD PROVIDE OWN PLANS OR SPECIFY DESIGNER.

5. MACHINE SHOP, WITH 128 TOOLS FROM GIANT LATHE FOR PROPELLOR SHAFTS ON DOWN, APPEARED ALMOST TOTALLY SOVIET EQUIPPED. SAYED TOLD US RUSSIAN MACHINE TOOLS HAVE RELATIVELY SHORT LIFE AND HE HOPED (READ "WANTED FOREIGN AID") REPLACE OVER NEAR FUTURE WITH WESTERN MACHINERY.

6. TWO "MINI-TANKERS" OF 500 TONS NEAR COMPLETION. THEY ARE NUMBERS 8 AND 9 (AS WE FIGURED) OF 15 ORIGINALLY ORDERED BY SOVIETS. SAYED CRITICIZED THEIR DESIGN, TOO, SAYING HULL OF 500 TONS WAS VASTLY OVERBUILT AND COULD BE CONSTRUCTED TO WEIGH ONLY 150 TONS. WHEN ASKED IF REMAINING VESSELS OF ORIGINAL ORDER WOULD BE CANCELLED, SAYED SAID ALL WOULD BE BUILT, BUT TWO NOW NEAR LAUNCHING AND REMAINDER WOULD GO TO EGYPTIAN NAVY AND ARMY.

7. STILL TRYING TO IMPRESS US WITH VALUE OF YARD FOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF USN VESSELS, SAYED EMPHASIZED TIGHT SECURITY (COMMENT-EGYPTIAN STYPE-END COMMENT) YARD COULD OFFER BERTHED OR HAULED VESSELS AND HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO LET US KNOW HE COULD AND IF NECESSARY WOULD ORDER HOME THE 26 REMAINING SOVIET ADVISORS. THESE LAST ARE ALLEGEDLY ON MINI-TANKER PROGRAM ONLY.

8. SAYED WAS PROUD OF SPEED AND QUALITY OF WORK AT YARD. ONE EGYPTIAN NATIONAL LINES SHIP, SS SHATBY WAS IN DRYDOCK ONLY 36 HOURS FOR SCRUBBING, PAINTING, MINOR REPAIRS, BEFORE LAUNCH TO COMMENCE US/EGYPT SERVICE (WITH ABOVE COMPANY IDENTIFICATION PROUDLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ALEXAN 00432 011410Z

PRINTED ALONG TOPSIDES AT URGING OF US AGENT). SAID PASSENGER LINERS RECEIVE SUCH TREATMENT IN AS LITTLE AS 12 HOUR TURNAROUND.

9. COMMENT: THERE NO DOUBT WHATSOEVER THAT OUR TOUR OF ALEXANDRIA SHIPYARD WAS TO ENCOURAGE US TO URGE US USE. AT SAME TIME, SAYED KEPT ASSURING US YARD REMAINED BUSY AND PRODUCTIVE ON CURRENT CONTRACTS. AS UNTUTORED ASSESSMENT, WE BELIEVE US OPERATORS WOULD GET GOOD VALUE BY UTILIZING THIS YARD FOR MED-BASED OR MED-SERVICE VESSELS.
CHASE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUILDUP, SHIPYARDS, LABOR FORCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ALEXAN00432
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770194-1343
Format: TEL
From: ALEXANDRIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197706105/aaaadnht.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fa099e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ALEXANDRIA 420, 76 ALEXANDRIA A-13
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2007739
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALEXANDRIA SHIPYARD
TAGS: EWWT, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fa099e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009